

Amendment to the Claims:

The claims under examination in this application, including their current status and changes made in this paper, are respectfully presented.

1 (currently amended). A method for accessing encrypted information stored in a flash memory storage device, the memory storage device being in communication with a by operating a host system in communication with a reader, the reader including a memory storing a key according to which the information stored in the flash memory storage device is encrypted through an adapter, the memory storage device including a memory, the method comprising:

inserting the flash memory storage device into the reader;

forwarding an access code from the host system to the reader;

responsive to the access code being valid for the reader, obtaining a the key from the adapter reader, the key being arranged to encrypt information that is arranged to be stored in the memory, the key further being arranged to decrypt the encrypted information, wherein the key is substantially stored on the adapter; and

processing decrypting the information stored on the flash memory storage device using the key; and

forwarding the decrypted stored information to the host system.

2 (canceled).

3 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising:

wherein the information is provided by the host system, and processing the information using the key includes encrypting the information using the key;

storing the encrypted information in the flash memory storage device; and

removing the flash memory storage device from the reader.

4 (canceled).

5 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the access code comprises a first password;

and wherein the obtaining the key from the adapter includes step comprises::

providing a first password to the adapter;

determining when the first password is valid; and

decoding contents associated with the adapter stored in the reader to obtain the key from the decoded contents using the first password, responsive to determining when it is determined that the first password is valid, wherein the contents include to obtain the key from the decoded contents.

6 (currently amended). The method of claim 5, further comprising: ~~wherein determining when the first password is valid includes~~

comparing the first password to a second password to determine if whether the first password is substantially the same as matches the second password, wherein the second password is stored on the adapter in the reader.

7 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the access code comprises a first password;

and wherein obtaining the key from the adapter includes:

providing a first password to the adapter;

generating operating the reader to obtain a second password on the adapter using the first password; determining when the second password is suitable for decoding contents associated with the adapter; and

decoding the contents stored in the reader using the second password, responsive to when it is determined that the second password is suitable for decoding the contents associated with the adapter, wherein the contents include the key.

8 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the adapter reader includes a volatile random access memory (RAM), and wherein the step of obtaining the key from the adapter includes:

~~providing a password to the RAM; and decoding the contents stored in the volatile RAM using the password access code to obtain, wherein the contents include the key from the decoded contents.~~

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled.

11 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the flash memory card storage device is one selected from the group consisting of a secure digital card, a Compact Flash card, a multimedia card, a smart media card, and a Memory Stick card.

12 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the adapter reader is one of a Universal Serial Bus (USB) reader and a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) adapter.

13 (currently amended). A system comprising:

~~a memory storage device, the memory storage device including a memory; a host system; and~~

~~an adapter, the adapter being arranged to a flash memory reader coupled to the host system, comprising:~~

~~an interface with the for receiving a flash memory storage device,~~

~~a reader memory, for storing a key;~~

~~wherein the adapter is arranged to store a key that is associated with the memory storage device~~

~~circuitry for accessing encrypted information stored in a flash memory device received at the interface, comprising:~~

~~means for receiving an access code from the host system, and~~

~~means for obtaining the key from the reader memory responsive to the received access code being valid for the reader; and~~

means for decrypting information stored on a flash memory storage device received at the interface, using the key.

Claims 14 through 16 are canceled.

17 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~16~~ 13 wherein the means for ~~processing the first password include~~ obtaining the key comprises:

means for comparing the a first password corresponding to the received access code to a second password that is stored on the adapter in the reader memory; and

means for determining when the first password substantially matches the second password;

means for substantially obtaining the key using the second password when it is determined that responsive to the first password substantially matches matching the second password such that the key may be accessed by the host.

18 (currently amended). The system according to claim 17 wherein the means for ~~processing the first password include~~ obtaining the key further comprises:

means for obtaining a second password using the first password substantially within the adapter;

means for determining when the second password is suitable for obtaining the key; and wherein the means for substantially obtaining the key such that the key may be accessed by the host using uses the second password when the second password is determined to be responsive to the second password being suitable for obtaining the key.

19 (currently amended). The system according to claim 17 wherein the ~~key is included in encoded contents associated with the adapter and the means for receiving the password include~~ reader memory comprises a volatile random access memory (RAM) for storing the received first password;

and wherein the means for processing the first password include obtaining the key comprises:

means for decoding the encoded contents of the reader memory using the first password.

20 (currently amended). The system according to claim 14 13 wherein the host system is arranged to encrypt information and to write the encrypted information into the memory through the adapter reader.

21 (currently amended). The system according to claim 14 13 wherein the host is arranged to read information from the memory through the adapter reader and wherein the decrypting means is contained within the host system to decrypt the information using the key.

22 (currently amended). The system according to claim 13 wherein the flash memory storage device is a memory card ~~and the memory is~~ containing a non-volatile memory.

23 (original). The system according to claim 22 wherein the memory card is one selected from the group consisting of a secure digital card, a Compact Flash card, a multimedia card, and a Memory Stick card.

24 (currently amended). The system according to claim 13 wherein the adapter reader is one of a Universal Serial Bus (USB) reader and a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) adapter.

Claims 25 through 37 are canceled.